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known as chlorophyllite, and is perhaps intermediate in character between pinite and fahlunite.

All the specimens as yet collected have the aspect of pseudomorphs by alteration. Frequently there is no distinct line of demarkation between the fahlunite and the surrounding orthoclase, as though one passed into the other. At the line of junction the orthoclase sometimes becomes dull, while the fahlunite, which has its normal character in more central portions of the mass, becomes hard and resembles a greenish orthoclase. These features may be seen in the specimen presented to the Academy.

MAY 23, 1881.

On the Fossil Ores of Lycoming County.—MR. ABRAHAM MEYER described some outcrops of fossil iron ore in Lycoming County. He stated that the ore of Larry Creek formed veins having an average width of 2 feet, but occasionally being 4 feet thick. Those veins which are inclined at a high angle (70° – 80°) show slickensides on their surfaces, while the more horizontal veins have an oolitic structure. They yield 40 per cent. of metallic iron, although stated by the Geological Survey (Report F, p. 235) to contain only 16 per cent. Nodules of ore from Beatty's Run frequently contain a nucleus of carbonate of iron.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1881.

On a Mineral resembling Dopplerite from a Peat-bed at Scranton, Pa.—Prof. H. CARVILL LEWIS called attention to a very interesting substance recently found in a peat-bog at Scranton. In an excavation for the new court-house at that place, below a deposit of peat, "swamp-muck," and fallen trees, at a depth of some 25 feet from the surface, there occur veins of a black elastic substance which, when first excavated, was a stiff black jelly, but which after drying becomes brittle and nearly as hard as coal. The dried mineral resembles jet, having a brilliant lustre and a conchoidal cleavage. The peat-bog in which this substance was found is said to have been formerly a swamp or lake, which has been filled up in the extension of the town. The deposit of peat, which is covered by about 10 feet of rubbish, is over 15 feet in thickness and is said to burn well. Near the bottom of the peat, in a carbonaceous clay or "muck," the black jelly-like substance is found. It occurs in irregular veins, sometimes nearly perpendicular, throughout the lower portion of the peat, and these veins vary in thickness from a mere stain to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Immediately below this deposit, and underlying the whole peat-bog, is a deposit of glacial till or "hardpan." This peat-bog, therefore, like the others so numerous throughout the glaciated region, is of post-glacial age.

When the substance here described was first received, last July,

it was soft, black and elastic, having a hardness of less than one, and being almost jelly-like in consistency. After partial drying it was nearly as elastic as india-rubber. When a very thin slice was cut by a knife and examined under the microscope, it appeared brownish red by transmitted light, and was nearly homogeneous in character. It was imbedded in and surrounded by peaty matter, the latter being filled with plant remains. Occasional oval seeds are imbedded both in the peat and in the jelly-like substance. After drying for three months in the air the mineral was found to have a hardness of 2.5, and to have become brittle. The dried substance has a brilliant resinous lustre and a conchoidal fracture. It has a specific gravity of about 1.036. It is jet-black in the mass, but its powder has a dark brown color. In the closed tube it yields water and abundance of brown oil and empyreumatic vapors. The air-dried substance burns with a yellow flame while held in the flame of a Bunsen burner. In its natural elastic state it burns slowly without giving a yellow flame. It does not dissolve in ether or alcohol, but is entirely dissolved by caustic potash; and from the dark brown solution thus formed may be precipitated in reddish brown flocculent masses by the addition of acid. The filtrate from this precipitate has a pale yellow color. These are the properties of humic acid, and it is probable that this substance is an acid hydrocarbon closely related to that acid.

It is evident that this substance is the direct result of the decomposition of the surrounding peat. It may be of quite recent formation. It is of special interest in that it appears to be an intermediate product between peat and true coal, and it illustrates one method of change from the former into the latter.

In many of its characters this substance closely resembles dopplerite. Dopplerite is a black jelly-like substance, occurring in the peat-beds of Austria and Switzerland. In its method of occurrence it is precisely similar to the Scranton mineral. On exposure it hardens to a hard jet-like substance, which, however, unlike the Scranton mineral, does not burn with a flame. Dopplerite has been regarded as a truly homogeneous peat, and has been shown to have the same composition as that substance. It has never been identified in America. Whether the mineral from Scranton is to be regarded as dopplerite can only be determined after analysis. It is worthy of careful examination.